

SECRET

24 February 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR:



SUBJECT : Note on Transportation Attacks

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1. During Admiral Mustin's recent briefing, he mentioned the fact that U.S. Air Forces had flown about 9,000 sorties against Laos during the period of the bombing lull. Using his ordnance figures, which show slightly over two tons per sortie, this would mean that something on the order of 18,000 tons were delivered against Laos in the five-week period beginning with 24 December.

2. The interesting point is that the U.S. strategic bombing survey concluded that a bombing tonnage of 12,000 tons per month against railway targets in Germany was sufficient to exceed the ability of the Reichsbahn in the repair effort and to break the back of the railroad system. In the German war, the weight of attack did not exceed 12,000 tons a month until September 1944 and thereafter rose gradually to 32,500 tons a month in March of 1945.

3. I think we should examine the Laotian experience carefully because apparently the weight of attack which was considered sufficient to overcome the recuperative powers of the rail system in Germany is not sufficient to overcome the recuperative powers of the highway system in Laos. If this conclusion is correct, it bears directly on the question of tonnages needed to effectively interdict the existing highway system. We should get all the information we can on the Laotian experience.



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